

# Pot v Crngrob

## Path to Crngrob

## Informacije / Info:

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Pot v Crngrob	Izhodiščna točka / Starting point	5 km	1 - 1,5h

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The theme path 'Path to Crngrob' leads from Škofja Loka past Stara Loka, the villages of Papirnica and Pevno, to the Church of the Annunciation in Crngrob. Since the middle ages the church has been a favourite pilgrimage place. Along the path, you will notice a number of points of interest and shrines, which will remind you of the nature of a pilgrimage routes.

The path begins opposite the bus station in Škofja Loka. On the grassy area in front of the Nama shop, there is an information board with all the necessary directions and information. Firstly the path leads past the alley Aleja znamenitih Ločanov and the cemetery, then you should turn left and continue along the road Partizanska cesta. At the crossroads, look around to the left and on the corner you will see Dolenc House (Dolenčeva hisa) upon which there is the last vestige of a bloody mark at the place where they once carried out the ritual of beheading criminals. On one side, in the direction of Crngrob, is the scene of the Annunciation whilst on the other, towards Stara Loka is the patron of the old Loka church, Saint George. Continue right on the path



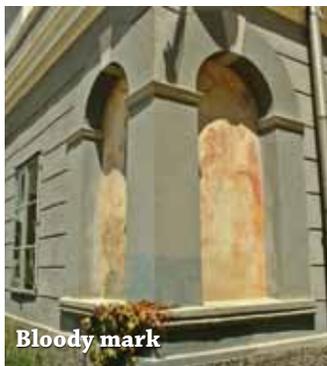
Chapel of Jesus' Welfare

towards Crngrob. At Bidet's shrine, opposite the fire station, take the left path and after approximately 50 metres glance to the right where you will see a cross beneath the top of the now built on Gavžnik hill.

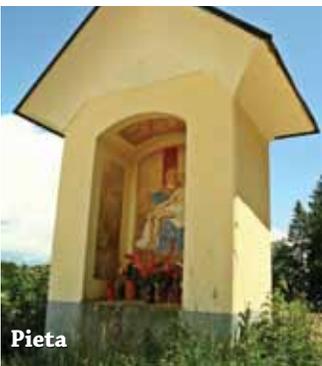
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**Where do this unusual name come from? The historian, France Štukl, says that it comes from the word 'gavzniti', meaning to die in unpleasant circumstances. On Gavžnik there was said to once be a gallows, where criminals were hung.**

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Bloody mark



Pieta

At the sign for Papirnica keep to the path which leads straight ahead. If you wish, you could also make a short detour through the village. In

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**The village of Papirnica gets its name from the paper mill which operated here in the 18th century.**

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this case, we recommend a walk to the Chapel of Jesus' Welfare, on which you can admire the work of the academic painter Maja Šubic. A little further on you will reach a junction for

Crngrob and Pevno. Keep in the direction of Crngrob or make another short detour through the village of **Pevno**. The village is home to St. Ursula's Church, which was mentioned in the land registry as far back as the beginning of the 16th century.



Village of Pevno

The village was once known by the name Jägerndorf (Hunters village). From the 13th century, the Freising's land registry recorded the residents of the village as hunters, who carried out hunting work for the Freising Lords, for which they also enjoyed income tax relief. Hawks were used to assist the hunts, and the villagers were also obliged to keep one hunter's dog. The wide-spread popularity of falconry and hunting in the middle ages is also depicted on the fresco of Holy Sunday in Crngrob – don't forget to look for it when you arrive there! The path ahead leads first past the **shrine of Pieta**, on which Ivan Grohar painted Gosar's image in 1896, then further on past the shrine to St. Cross. In the middle of the forest, at the junction of two roads, is **the Red Shrine**, which was erected at the beginning of the 16th century and is one of the oldest shrines in Slovenia. The Red Plague Shrine, which reminds us of the plague, has several holy images on it - sadly these have been poorly preserved. A little further on, at an old track through the forest, there are two rocks where, according to legend, Maria rested when she came to visit her sanctuary.

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**In the book 'The Stone Bridge' there is a tale which says that a sprite had gold coins hidden in an underground castle in the Crngrob copse, which a hardhearted miller had lost when he had refused to help the sprite. Therefore, when you set off through the forest, pay attention, and if you should see the Crngrob sprite, ask him where he has hidden the treasure!**

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# Immediately on leaving the forest, you arrive in the village of Crngrob.



In front of you, you will see the bell tower on **the Church of the Annunciation**.

Where does the unusual name of the village come from? Various explanations exist in different sources. In deeds, the name **Ehrengruben** appears, which means 'cave', where sand was once dug out, which is thought to have been situated in the village. Another theory says the the name came from the name '**zw Em-grub**' (zur Erdgrube – at the earth cave). Robbers, who prayed on merchants travelling between Kranj and Škofja Loka, were said to have once lived in the Crngrob copse.

The story, also in the book 'The Stone Bridge' explains the derivation of the name as follows: The Loka Chief was extremely proud of the high bell tower of St. Jacob's church, which was then the highest in all of the

Loka's rule. When building of the bell tower began at the church in Crngrob, it appeared that the Crngrob bell tower would become the highest and most predominant. The Loka Chief couldn't allow this and therefore he set off for Crngrob, climbed on the building scaffolding, and from there he chased the workers away and forbade them to build such a high bell tower. At the same moment a strong wind blew which sent the Chief flying from the scaffolding to the floor



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***The heads of two men, a woman and a dog, whose images are painted in the church and under the entry porch, are said to represent the Crngrob robbers.***

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where he sunk into the earth. For a long time afterwards, **black grass grew** in this spot which marked the grave of the fallen Chief. **The pilgrimage Church of the Annunciation is one of the most beautiful medieval churches in Slovenia.** It was built over a long period of time, from the end of the 13th century to the middle of the 19th century. From its beginnings, due to the large size of the church in comparison with the size of the village, it was intended for **pilgrims**. Due to its popularity its size has been increased several times. If you look carefully, you can see a number of pilgrims' signatures.

Detailed explanations about a number of the artistic historic elements should be left to the professionals; the contents of this leaflet are intended only to inform you about some of the points of interest which can be found in the church and which will awaken your curiosity for further exploration.

When you reach the church you will first notice the **fresco of Saint Christopher** with Jesus on his shoulder, which is on the front facade of the church. People prayed to St. Christopher to ask that they wouldn't have a sudden death. They also believed that if in the morning you see the saint's image, this day you won't have a sudden death, therefore his image can often be seen on the exterior of numerous churches.

In the shelter of the neogothic porch on the facade, the **fresco of Holy Sunday** can be seen. This originates from the middle of the 15th century and shows tasks which were at the time prohibited on Sundays. The fresco is an important reminder of the late medieval art of painting, whilst at the same time being a rich source of the history of culture and customs of the middle ages. It exhibits scenes from every day life from which it is possible to learn much about the life of tradesmen, architecture, traditions and clothing culture in the middle ages.

Whilst admiring the neogothic porch, look for the **imprint of a horseshoe** on the stone base of the pillar. Legend has it that a Turkish General wanted to come on horseback to rob the church. However, he immediately went blind. He didn't want to give up and as he continued to ride towards the altar, the floor began to give way beneath the horse.

The interior fittings of the church are mainly baroque. Between the gold baroque altars is the oldest altar, St. Ahac (1648), which is now situated in the southern nave The main altar, dedicated to Maria, is the largest gold altar in the Gorenjska region.

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***One more feature worth mentioning – The large bell in the bell tower of the Crngrob church (1807, cast by Vincenc Samassa) has an image of a cross, the Annunciation and St. George and is further adorned with the oldest Slovene bell inscription.***

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## Giant girl, »Ajdovska deklica«

Some examples of museum exhibits can also be found in the church, which are thought to be from the middle of the 15th century and according to legend belonged to the giant girl, Ajdovska deklica.

Legend has it that Ajdovska deklica, who had sometimes lived in the copse in Crngrob, helped with the building of the church. In her apron she brought the builders a large rock and out of a huge pail she handed them water from the Sava river. She was so hard working that she caught a cold from overwork and died. To show their gratitude and in her memory one of her ribs is hung in the church. People say that every year blood drips from this rib which will fall for the last time when judgement day will come.

The church is not open to the public. However, by prior arrangement guided tours can be arranged with Škofja Loka Tourism. Should you wish to continue, a marked path leads to Planica and Križna Gora or you may choose to explore the Sorško fields, where the 13th stage of the Loka's Cycling Circle also leads.



»Pri Mariji pokrižaj se in v zdravilni vodi oči si umij, pri cerkvi pa pomoli in si odpočij.«

### Other things to see and do:

- The old town centre of Škofja Loka
- The Škofja Loka Museum, Škofja Loka
- Capuchin's Library
- The theme paths 'The Three Castles Path' and 'Path to Puštal'

### In the vicinity:

- Tourist Farm Pri Marku, Crngrob
- Restaurant Gostilna Crngrob
- Restaurant Gostilna Pri Boštjanu, Križna Gora